

THE PACIFIC
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WALTER G. SMITH : : : : : EDITOR.

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"The men who till farms—the men of the soil—have made the foundation of lasting national life in every state."

—THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

AN ENDOWED THEATER.

When our rich men die they leave money to endow hospitals, homes, schools, colleges or general Christian work, and it is well that they do. But Honolulu is waiting for some original genius who, remembering how brighter life would be in this isolated place if there were more entertainments of a high order at the opera house, would provide in his will a guarantee amusement fund to pay the expenses of fine dramatic and musical organizations that might be induced to come here from the coast.

In the French Pacific colonies the opera has long been subsidized by the government. Certain South American countries do the same thing. Otherwise these places would never get into touch with the musical and dramatic art of the world and their inhabitants would be forced to content themselves with faint echoes as from a distant and invisible lyre.

From things that make life worth living the stage can no longer be excluded. It is a part of one's culture, almost of one's ordinary education, to hear the great singers and to fall under the spell of the great actors and the noble plays. Here in Honolulu, far from the centers of the world's activity, little indeed is known of the plays and songs that are thrilling the great world beyond the sea. But for the old royal band the islanders, save the few that can travel, would hear little indeed of the new music, and as for dramatic art, almost all we know of it comes to us in newspapers and magazines. For most of the year the Honolulu opera house, like faith, is the evidence of things not seen.

Nor will it be different until Honolulu becomes a large city, filled with appreciative theater-goers or until some one, not bound by testamentary precedents, creates an amusement fund to carry a dramatic season here. When that time comes the Mansfields and Sembrichs, the Paderewskis and Fredericks Wardes will be ours to command and life in the tropics will take on an added charm and lose a carking care or two.

A PERPETUAL G. A. R.

The invitation to the Spanish War Veterans to join in the G. A. R. Memorial day exercises of this city is in line with a custom which is growing up in the United States and which suggests the possibility of the future union of the two veteran organizations.

It would be a pity to have the G. A. R. vanish with its founders, for the Grand Army of the Republic cannot logically be confined to the survivors of any one war or of any particular era. Like the republic itself, its Grand Army should be perpetual; an embodiment through the generations of the nation's military history, a living and abiding example of patriotic self-sacrifice. Nothing could be more appropriate, therefore, than to open its ranks to every soldier and sailor who has served the nation in time of war. The old Grand Army should renew its youth and go on, from war to war, with its ranks recruited in every militant epoch through which its country may pass.

Captain Mahan says that the Japanese fleet has undoubtedly taken its position off the northern shore of Formosa to await events. When the Russian fleet passes northward of Luzon it must choose one of two routes, the direct one through the Formosa Straits or the circuitous one to the eastward of Formosa. By wireless messages from small islands between Luzon and Formosa and from Japanese scouting boats, the telegraphic service in South Formosa will learn of the course chosen and will then communicate with Togo. After that the deluge.

J. William Farr, who bestowed the degrees of Ph. D. and LL. D. upon Judge Little, erstwhile of Hilo, has been rounded up in the courts. Conviction was had under a charge of using the mails for fraudulent purposes. One of the counts was the issuance of a degree of LL. D. to the Rev. W. A. Dietrich of Cleveland, Ohio, who had written for it, enclosing a check and saying that the degree would help him in his work and that no one would know where he had obtained it.

The county convention, which meets tonight, ought to frame the best possible ticket and if it does so there will be no danger of a party split. Republicans of standing are never so independent that they want the ticket of any other party to be better than their own. They stand ready to welcome a ticket such as tonight's convention can frame if it chooses to do so, one made up of nominees who stand for honesty, capacity and disinterestedness.

An evening paper speaks about the "United States Naval Station at Kahauiki." It is a grand idea, if the United States Army would give up the ground. A naval station in that locality, with an elevation of about 250 feet above sea level, would give a battleship mounted on rubber-tired trucks a splendid running start to ram an enemy's ship off Diamond Head.

A country club is an institution which Honolulu ought to have had long ago. But it would be well to locate it not too near town. The more country about a country club the better for the members. By this standard the choice of the Rooke property up Nuuanu valley for the proposed new organization of our out-of-door citizens seems admirable.

The Taft company ought to have the time of their lives in Honolulu.

BEFORE THE CELTS.

Scientists have had a good deal to say in regard to certain ancient subterranean dwellings which were recently discovered in County Antrim, Ireland. One of the wise men makes the following comments: "In all probability it establishes the presence at one time in that part of Ireland of a race which occupied a great part of the European continent before the appearance of the earliest Celt. It is held by many authorities that the Lapps are the living representatives of the early race to which these underground dwellings are ascribed, the primitive inhabitants of Western Europe having been swept away before the advance of the Celtic peoples, and now surviving as a separate stock only in the remote neighborhood of the Arctic circle."

"It seems also extremely likely that a large proportion of the fairy lore of the later races is derived from the actual existence of these 'little people' in holes in the earth in the out-of-the-way places to which they had retired for safety. By a very general tendency the younger races regarded the older as steeped in all sorts of supernatural lore, and so, it is thought, originated the many different stories of dwarfs and fairies and their magical ways and powers."

"To this day, it is worth notice, sailors regard a Finn as a wizard by right of birth, and the Finnish race is another which apparently belongs to a similar great antiquity."

Foreigners in China buy nearly everything on credit, giving signed "chits" for every purchase, the reason being their unwillingness to load themselves down with silver or native coin, while paper money fluctuates too much.

OLDEST AMERICAN CITY.

It is commonly believed that St. Augustine—founded in 1565—is the oldest city in the United States. But considering Porto Rico a part of the United States such a belief is not correct. The settlement of Ponce de Leon at Caparra is older by fifty-five years. The exact location of the historical Caparra was discovered accidentally by Dr. Harrington, of the San Juan weather office. Hearing from the natives along the road to Pueblo Viejo of their tradition of the first Spanish town in Puerto Rico he procured a guide and made an examination of the nearly extinct ruin. "Without doubt," he says, "the ruins I found were those of the first settlement established by the explorer and colonizer Ponce de Leon. Both local tradition and history name Caparra as the earliest town on the island and agree on the same site near Old Village, or Pueblo Viejo."

"Even the native negroes, some of whom could neither read nor write, knew the story of Caparra. My personal investigation showed me the correctness of their traditions. The only remains of the original town visible now are the ruins of a church, hospital and a repaired lime one furnace. Most of the stone from the church, houses and hospital had been used, according to the natives in the construction of highways. A historical landmark near the reputed gold mine worked by the first Spanish settlers, Ponce de Leon is said to have greatly enriched himself by the compulsory labor of the native Indians in the mines."

The speed of a wild duck is about ninety miles an hour.

THAT ARTLESS JAP
BANK, THE KEI HIN

From the Hotel Ebisuya, an establishment hitherto unknown to fame, but visibly situated on the corner of Beretania and Smith streets, comes the following serious communication which our readers are at liberty to interpret into their own English. The signer, K. Hamamura is Boniface San of the Hotel Ebisuya:

Editor Advertiser: Enclosed please find a translation of the Japanese news paper published in Tokio and look into the matters that you might know some of the present Kei Hin Bank and I beg you will publish finding out its bad doing in the banking business. My translation will not be collected but I just took all the meanings said about it in The Yozoru Choho so you will please kindly collect wrong words and sentences.

As the paper said, Hinata Terutake and Morioka Shin, the directors of the Kei Hin Bank came on the S. S. Mongolia arrived here yesterday. Knowing that they came here Judge Gear, Mr. Geo. A. Davis & myself went to the Young Hotel today to see them on business of which I have a large amount of deposit to collect from the Bank for the Japanese poor laborers working on the plantation. The directors however were not in the Hotel and they seem to be escaping from the troubles and I doubt still more of them.

I beg to say that I would like to publish clearly this thing as I have to translate more.

Very respectfully yours,

K. HAMAMURA.

DOUBTFUL NEWS OF THE KEI HIN BANK.

YOZORU CHOHO, a Japanese noted news paper in Tokio published May 8th, 1903.

The Kei Hin Bank, an uncreditable bank as can not be joined even the trading of the associated banks, receives deposit money mainly from the immigrants by keeping a branch in Hawaii, and spends it freely not paying back to the depositors. When the immigrants are going to Hawaii the Bank causes them to put up a bond of One hundred Yen for a loan of Ninety Yen (mostly these are only by a name of loan) and is collecting consecutively the sum of One hundred Yen and interest from the immigrants (which due from the bond).

The Hawaiian government finding its cheating activity has prohibited its business of the branch of the Bank in the beginning of last year. The Bank then finally lost its way to get money and opened a bank further in Hawaii under the name of Ueno Bank. The Hawaiian government again found out its bad secret and took the action of the prosecution for the Ueno Bank with the U. S. District Attorney. On the other side the immigrants depending American lawyers and Shiozawa have brought suits against the Ueno Bank for the restoring the deposit. So great the consternation of the Bank was seen south from those circumstances. The Bank's director Hinata Terutake's going to Hawaii on S. S. Manchuria departing to-morrow will be in the purpose to avoid the mentioned such as doubtful news although he is saying to go to Hawaii to see the matters of the refusal of the landing of the immigrants in Hawaii.

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White Lawn Waists, tucked, with lace insertion and medallions.....\$2.50 each.
White Lawn Waists, with embroidery insertion and lace edging.....\$3 each.
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White Dotted Swiss Waists, tucked front in two styles.....\$3.50 and \$4.00.
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